



March 15, 2013

The Honorable Catherine K. Hudgins
Hunter Mill District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Bowman Towne Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Dear Supervisor Hudgins:

I write on behalf of the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force about several priority issues that need to be addressed immediately to support rail operations beginning at the Wiehle-Reston East station this December and to enable walkable Transit Oriented Development:

- Expedited construction of the Soapstone crossing to relieve traffic in the Wiehle-Reston East station area
- Approval of urban standards for the design and operation of streets in Reston (similar to Tysons)
- Provision of public access from south Reston to the soon to be opened Wiehle-Reston East station.

The Task Force received a presentation on the Soapstone crossing alternatives on February 28. A public meeting is scheduled for March 20. The County needs to select the most viable option as soon as possible and include funding for engineering and construction in the Capital Improvement Program now being prepared. This crossing is vitally important to relieve traffic on Wiehle Avenue and Reston Parkway. It would be a good candidate for some of the transportation funds that are coming to Fairfax as a result of passage of HB2313 during the 2013 General Assembly session.

The Task Force approved a document, "Achieving the Vision for Reston", (Enclosed) at its February 28, 2013 meeting. It states on page 4 under ***Contributions to expanding and maintaining paths for pedestrians and bicyclists*** ... "Fairfax County should actively pursue providing public access from the south side of the Wiehle-Reston East station for pedestrians and bicyclists and vehicle drop-off areas."

Efforts to negotiate with the property owner, Vornado, should begin immediately. We ask you to ensure that the effort to improve station access from the south be given a priority by county staff so that public access through the Vornado site to the station will be available when the station begins operation in December. "Achieving the Vision for Reston includes a provision for "first movers". Under it, early provision of infrastructure

-- even before actual project development -- could be a reason to provide a project with higher density.

We have also heard from a number of developers that the Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation are negotiating for transportation facilities that meet suburban standards. We are trying to create more urban-type neighborhoods along the corridor and in the village centers. We need different types of street designs with decreased roadway widths and turning radii that are more pedestrian- and bicyclist-friendly and allow for more attractive and walkable street environments with street trees, benches, and other pedestrian amenities.

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

We also appreciate and support your efforts to enhance feeder bus service by requesting additional funding above that currently being used by staff for service expansion. The success of the Silver Line in Reston in getting people out of their cars will depend to a great extent on frequent and coordinated feeder bus service that links the Metrorail stations to the rest of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Nicoson
President

Enclosure